

Kingdom of The Crescent Dawn

by Another one of those please

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Summary: Royal AU! OCC Jaune! B/C circumstance. Jaune and his brother decides to attend Beacon as normal students to see the world. Can they keep their identities a secret to their soon to be friends? How will their secrets effect the oncoming storm? May change rating from T to M later. Please read and review, new ideas and corrections such as spelling and syntax welcome. ARKOS FOR LIFE

1. Arrival at Beacon

"Dear Oum, it is just an air shuttle. How are you this sick?"

"Shut up! Airsickness is not that uncommon!"

"Yeah, cus out of the ten people in our family, you are the only one with this "not that uncommon" condition." There were two boys, one with wavy blonde hair and the other slightly shorter with curly black hair, bickering next to a window of the slowly descending aircraft.

Deciding to change the topic, the shorter teen eyed the sword holstered by his brother's side. "Jaune, you know dad would be furious if he knew that you took Crocea Mors, right? I mean of all the weapons in the armory, you had to take the family heirloom."

"Come on, Jace, it is the only one I can wield." Jaune replied indignantly.

Without neither one of the boys noticing, a young girl in a red hood snuck up behind while they discussed the choice of weapons.

"Ooh, you guys have an entire armory!?" the girl practically jumped in between the two boys.

"Yes we do, and who might you be?" Jace calmly asked younger teen while eyeing his brother. They both knew that their heritage must be kept a secret as it was one of the preconditions of coming to Beacon.

"Hi, I am Ruby and this is my beloved, Crescent Rose." Ruby pulled out her weapon in folded form and started to snuggle against it. "She is an extended scythe with a high impact velocity sniper rifle mounted with in the handle, what are your weapons"

"Sis, where are you?" Another blonde yelled out somewhere else on the shuttle

"Oh, that is me. gotta go!" the little grim reaper disappeared in a breeze of rose petals.

"She seems nice" Jace said to Jaune.

"Just like Janice back home, a bit more quirky though." Replied Jaune.

Both boys were a bit home sick, but both wanted to go to Beacon, deciding that the combat school back home was too close for comfort. Jaune hated the whole situation back home and did not want to go to a school where he would be admired for his family's position. Jace, on the other hand, wanted to see the world and enjoy every bit of life. Ironically, it was because of their prominent position, Ozpin allowed them to attend the prestigious school without an entrance exam.

"You know I still resent you for being three minutes younger than me." Jaune said offhandedly. Jace deadpanned at the remark. "Yeah, Cus being the heir apparent to the great kingdom of Arcadia is totally a shitty gig."

"If you like it so much, why don't you ask dad to make you the Crown Prince? No one is going to care." Jaune started raise his voice.

"Shh, Jaune, come down, we shouldn't talk about it too loud. Remember that one of our promises to mom was to stay discreet."

* * *

><p>After they disembarked the aircraft, the princes started to walk towards the school. Students all around them marveled at the grandeur of the school and the magnificent courtyard that they are currently in.<p>

BOOM

"What happened?"

"I don't know, let's find out."

The princes were greeted with a very weird image. Ruby was lying in a crater along with a soot covered girl who was screaming at the poor reaper.

"â€|this was exactly the kind of thing that I was talking about!" the unknown girl yelled at Ruby

"I'm really, really sorry."

"Ugh, you complete dolt, what are you even doing here?"

"Hey! Would you please calm down?" Jace decided that it was a good time to interrupt before things got out of control.

"Who are you? And what are you to tell me, Weissâ€". "

"â€"Schnee? Heiress to the Schnee Dust Company. One of the largest producers of energy propellant in the worldâ€|" Another girl in a monochrome outfit and a black hair ribbon walked up the group of students.

"Finally. Some recognition." the Heiress eyed the little red head.

"â€|the same company infamous for its controversial labor forces and questionable business partners."

"Whaâ€|"

"Please calm down Ms. Schnee" Jace interjected again determined not to be ignored this time "would you be kind enough to forgive our friends here. They are both very tired from the trip and I think it is best if we start moving towards the auditorium."

"Ugh, fine, whatever!" the Heiress stomped away without even batting an eye at the boys.

"I promise I'll make this up to you! I guess I'm not the only one having a rough first day" Ruby sighed. She has failed again to make friends. What is even worse is that her sister, her own flesh and blood sister ditched her on the first chance possible.

"Hey, Ruby right?" Jaune on the other hand was eager to make a friend without them looking away from him. Jace noticed that the ebony haired girl walked away without a sound and decided not to comment about it.

"Yeah, and you two are the ones on the ship with the armory right?" Ruby practically jumped up at the boys, devoid of any of the previous worries and nervousness. "Ooh can I visit some day? I really want to see what you guys have! Pretty Please?"

Jaune faltered slightly at the thought that Ruby would come to the palace. He didn't want a potential friend to know of his status and ruin their relationship.

"Sure, but right now we should head towards the auditorium. Don't want to be late." Jace decided to bail Jaune out.

* * *

><p>As the three teenagers walked in to the auditorium they were greeted by a massive room filled with people.<p>

"Ruby! Over here! I saved you a spot!" Yelled the same blonde from back on the ship.

"Oh! Hey, that is my sister, I-I gotta go! See you after the ceremony!" Ruby ran off towards her sister.

"Just like Janice, I don't think we'll be bored here at least." Jace commented. Jaune was looking dejected and sighed out loud

"What, don't tell me you already fell for the little girl?" Jace teased his brother.

"Whaâ€¦ NO! ...I was just wondering where I am supposed to find another nice, quirky girl to talk to!"

"Sounds like a crush to me."

Neither boy noticed the pair of emerald eyes staring at them. More specifically, the tall, blond and scraggly.

2. Before the Initiation

"I'll... keep this brief. You have traveled here today in search of knowledge, to hone your craft and acquire new skills, and when you have finished, you plan to dedicate your life to the protection of the people."

A bespectacled stood on the podium addressing a large group of teenagers. Despite his white hair, walking cane and calm demeanor, Ozpin was no older than thirty. But he was tired, tired from years of work and no rest.

"But I look amongst you, and all I see is wasted energy, in need of purpose, direction. You assume knowledge will free you of this, but your time at this school will prove that knowledge can only carry you so far. It is up to you to take the first step." The teenagers in the auditorium started to whisper among themselves as Ozpin walked off of the podium and disappeared behind a door.

Another woman replaced him at the microphone, "You will gather in the ballroom tonight; tomorrow, your initiation begins. Be ready. And will Mr. Jaune and Jace Arc report to the headmaster's office please. Rest of you are dismissed."

* * *

><p>As the princes entered the elevator, Jaune wanted questioned why Ozpin would as for them but kept his mouth shut. He knew Jace for long enough to know that his brother was someone to keep secrets, someone who would rather not be known for his deeds.<p>

Jaune and Jace has always been close, Jace even quit combat school with Jaune when Jaune couldn't handle the pressure of people staring at him. Both Boys would train and do missions with private tutors, but Jaune would also have to follow their parents during some of the diplomatic trips while Jace stayed home to look after their sisters and take care of the palace. Jaune always wanted to know what his brother did when he came back but he never got a straight answer, only that he went on some small missions with some of their tutors.

Jaune's thoughts were interrupted when the elevator pinged and they got to the top floor. The door opened and the princes were greeted with a large room with a large window opposing the elevator and an intricate clockwork mechanism on the ceiling.

"Ah, welcome your majesties" Ozpin was holding his mug next to the window with Glynda standing in front of the desk. "How was your first impressions of our humble academy?"

"Hey, Old geezer." Jace had an evil grin as soon as he saw the two adults in the room, "Have you finally settled down with Glynda here or are you still pining after the white one?"

Ozpin made an inaudible growl uncharacteristic of his usually laid back demeanor while Glynda widened her eyes in shock.

"Mr. Arc, while you are a member the Arcadian Royal Family, you are still a student of this prestigious establishment and I heavily recommend that you act with a little more respect towards the Headmaster." Glynda turned her shocked face into a glare. "And please do not refer to me nor her in that manner ever again."

Jaune on the other hand was both bewildered and scared by this exchanged, "uh, Jace? What are you guys talking about?"

"Your brother once went on a mission with us when Glynda and I were traveling around remnant." Ozpin started to explain "And he overheard a conversation that he was never supposed to know."

Jace smiled sheepishly "not my fault that you forgot to lock you room's door."

Ozpin waved off the subject "Anyways, how was the trip?"

"Good sir" Jaune was careful not to anger the headmistress any further than his brother already has. He knew of her strictness and did not want the next four years to be hell on Remnant. "The school looks really nice by the way."

"Thank you, I hope that both of you have kept your identities discreet."

"Yes sir" Both boy replied

"Well then, Glynda, would you please?"

Glynda took out two scrolls and handed one to each of the boys, "here are your new scrolls, they are connected to the Vale CCT. You will not be able to use your old ones here because they utilize a different frequency than the one in the Four Kingdoms."

"Thank you, Ms. Goodwitch" Jaune and Jace graciously accepted their scrolls.

"Anything else, Ozzie?" Jace ignored a glare from Goodwitch.

"No, you are both dismissed, have a good night" Ozpin smiled and shook his head at the teens.

"Good night" The princes walked to the elevator and went back to the

ballroom.

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><p>"Spill it Ozpin, Why are they here?" Glynda still did not know what Ozpin was up to, "Jane would never let her oldest come to Vale, why are they here?"<p>

"Because Vale can't keep Arcadia a secret much longer. James is about to announce Arcadia's independence and the Vale Council asked for Jaune as an assurance thinking that Jane would never agree to it." Ozpin sighed. He did not need any more work while the Queen is still at large and Amber in a coma.

"So how did she agree?" Glynda did not like where this is going.

"If her second son was also sent here and they both attended Beacon." Ozpin took a sip of the coffee. They were out of his favorite Vacuo Noisette Roast, and he was not satisfied with the replacement. "I know you don't like Jace but we need Arcadia's support if the Queen makes a move. Andâ€¦ I think we both know the full value of the Crescent Shadow"

"What!? Wait, which one of them?" Glynda was in shock for the second time in ten minutes and she was not comfortable with it.

"The one that is the shadow" Ozpin responded quizzically.

* * *

><p>Jaune and Jace walked back to the ballroom, as one blonde drew their attention; the same one that they saw earlier with Ruby.<p>

"It's like a big slumber party!"

"I don't think Dad would approve of all the boys, though." Ruby was writing something on a sheet of paper.

"I know I do!" The blonde practically purred at several muscular guys changing into their sleepwear.

"You know what?" Jaune asked walking up to them. Jace stood behind him quietly looking at his scroll.

There was a single message 'Report to the clockworks at 7 AM tomorrow'

"Hey! It you guys from the ship!" Ruby exclaimed

"Whoa Ruby! Didn't expect you talk to boys. So which one is your boyfriend?" The female blonde teased

"YANG!" Ruby threw a pillow at her sister and then turned to the boys sheepishly "uh, what are your names â€¦ I kinda forgot to askâ€¦ sorry."

"No, it's our fault that we didn't introduce ourselves properly" Jaune replied to Ruby in a very cordial manner "My name is Jaune and this is my brother Jace."

"Just a question." Yang popped up behind Ruby, "How are you two brothers? You look so different."

"I can say the same for you two." Jace finally looked up from his scroll.

"Well, Yang and I have different mothersâ€¦" Ruby stopped when she saw Yang deflate, "We rather not talk about it"

"Sorry, we shouldn't have been so intrusive." Jaune bailed Ruby out "our father had blonde curly hair and our mother had black hair, and we turn out to have different hair colors despite being twins"

"Anyways, it was nice to meet you. I think we should all rest for the night, big day tomorrow." Jace interrupted the conversation because he spot a certain white haired heiress looking angrily at them.

None of the students noticed a pair of amber eyes focused on the boys; more specifically, the boy with dark curly hair.

A.N.: The last part is a motif, it does not imply any pairing. Thanks for all of the support. I was surprised at how many people viewed and followed this story on the first day. Any criticism and ideas are welcomed; please PM me if you have any. Thanks

3. Day of Initiation Pt1

A.N.: I am going with distinct nationalities for each Kingdom. Arcadia will correspond with France (more specifically Normandy for those history buffs), Vale with the UK/America, Vacuo with China/Japan (so just East Asia), Atlas with Germany and Mistral with Greece/The Balkans

"Yawn" Jaune had rested fairly well considering they were sleeping on the auditorium floor. He looked at his scroll.

'7:00'

There was a message left by Jace in there too.

'Hey Bro, go and get ready first. I have to find an old partner. See you at the initiation.'

Jaune shook his head. His brother had always been more care free than him. He decided that he should go and have breakfast first.

"Oohhhh! We should come up with some sort of plan, to make sure we end up on the same team together! What if we bribe the headmaster?" As soon as Jaune walked into the cafeteria he saw an orange haired girl practically inhaling a stack of pancakes without a pausing to take a breath. He walked away without being noticed by the two students; it is too early in the morning to get involved in that conversation.

* * *

><p>"I thought we agreed not to use riddles anymore." Jace was

pissed. Someone woke him up at such an ungodly hour and he can't beat the crap out of that person, because this someone is Ozpin.<p>

"That wasn't a riddle though" A miniscule smile appeared on Ozpin's face. He was satisfied that he at least had some revenge for the disrespect shown by the black haired student. He purposefully took a long sip from his mug.

"What do you want? Didn't we cover everything last night?" Jace was getting annoyed. He also wanted some coffee.

"With your brother, yes. But ****_we_**** have much to discuss" Ozpin erased his smile from his face.

"Morning headmaster, Morning Mr. Arc" Glynda walked out from the elevator.

"Ah Glynda, we were just starting." Ozpin motioned to two seats in front of his desk, and both Goodwitch and Jace sat down.

"Jace, what we are about to talk about here is strictly confidential. We can't have anyone else know of this information." Jace did not like were this was going.

"Sure, Ozzie" Glynda glared at the prince.

"Have you heard of the Crescent Shadow?" Jace was surprised at the mention of that moniker but did not openly show it,

"Only from rumors that spread around the palace."

"Oh, and would you be of acquaintance to him?" Ozpin did not relent his line of questioning.

"Maybe"

"Would you know if he would like to work for the betterment of the Four Kingdoms?" Ozpin baited Jace, trying to see his reaction "He would be well compensated of course"

"Money isn't a problem." Jace kept a straight face but in reality he was scanning the room for possible bugs. "From what I heard, of course. He has often help the poor without payment, has he not?"

"How about we cut the chitchat," Glynda decided to skip the bush whacking a little and move the conversation along, they still have an initiation to start after all. "Have you heard of 'Queen'?"

"Only from rumors" Jace's suspicions has been confirmed, Ozpin is in hunting the White One. "Apparently she is the new 'mistress' of Adam Taurus after the Kitten left."

"Preposterous! The White Fang would never work with a human!" Glynda cried out.

"That is what I thought too, but my informant does not have a reason to lie. He needed the protection from me in order to escape the Fang."

"And who might this informant be?" Ozpin was so desperate for information on the queen that he went against his passive nature.

"I can't tell you yet, he needs to be moved to safety before I disclose his identity to you." Jace replied.

"This is troubling, The Queen now has an army" Ozpin was scared, and not a lot of things scare him anymore. "Anyways, the reason why I asked you here is because we need your help, both your and your kingdom's help."

"Well that is not the first the first time now is it? What do you need?"

"First because Arcadia is not a part of the CCT grid, we need you to be able to contact them as a contingency plan if the Queen cuts our communications." Ozpin did not like to ask for military assistance, but he was afraid that Atlas' Robot army will not do the job in the case of a cyber-attack.

"Why aren't you asking Jaune or our father for this?" Jace knew roughly why but he need to decide whether or not to tell his brother.

"Because sooner or later your father will declare independence and Jaune will be named the crown prince. He will be a prime target for many, the Queen included. So we need someone who is likely to be able to contact Arcadia in the critical moment."

"Fine, but only if Vale would stop its efforts to delay our independence. It has been too long since we have been relegated to second-class citizen status." Jace set out his terms

"That is acceptable." Ozpin complied. He pressed a button on the table and turned off the recording device. "Next is the reason why your brother is not here right now, we need your cooperation for this part."

"OK?"

"We need you to go into the Valean underworld and collect information on the 'Queen'. Qrow is currently out of the Kingdom so we need you to be our eyes and ears. You will still be a normal student, just with a special mission."

"And what will my compensation exactly be?" Jace already accepted the mission but wanted to mess with Ozpin.

"What do you want?"

"I get to have permission to get coffee from the teachers lounge anytime I want."

"Fine"

* * *

><p>Jaune had finished eating and was walking to his locker to get ready for initiation. "This is ridiculous! There's no way I put my gear in locker 636 yesterday! I would've remembered having to count

that high! Why does this have to happen today?"<p>

As he walked up the aisle he saw a redheaded girl talking to the Heiress from before.

"So, Pyrrha, have you given any thought to whose team you'd like to be on? I'm sure everyone must be eager to unite with such a strong, well-known individual such as yourself!" The Schnee not so subtly moved closer to the girl called Pyrrha.

"I was planning on letting the chips fall where they may." Pyrrha clearly did not feel comfortable around the heiress.

"Well... I was thinking maybe we could be on a team together."

Pyrrha backed away slightly "Well, that sounds grand!"

Reading the atmosphere, Jaune moved in between the girls. "Well I am pretty sure the partner process will be either chosen by the headmaster or be random. Ozpin is not one to leave it up to us choose teammates."

"You again?" Weiss Schnee was clearly irritated by blonde showing up

"Yeah, I am pretty sure he is right." Pyrrha was glad for the save.

"Thank you, uhâ€¦" Pyrrha hesitated to tell the blonde her name but then realized that he did not recognize her.

"Pyrrha, Pyrrha Nikos" The Spartan answered almost too eagerly

Weiss was shocked at Jaune's ignorance "Do you have any idea who you're talking to!?"

Jaune shook his head.

"She is the _Pyrrha Nikos_! Four time champion of the Mistral Regional Tournament! Top of her class and Sanctum! AND she is on the front of every box of Pumpkin Pete's Cereal Box! How could you not know who she is!?" Weiss yelled at Jaune while Pyrrha internally sighed at losing a potential true friend. A friend that did not care what she accomplished but who she is.

Oh is she in for a surprise.

"Well, congratulations on the success. You'll have to excuse me. My family lived outside of the CCT so we didn't have cable." Jaune had a knowing look at Pyrrha. "It must of have been really hard being so well known"

Pyrrha practically jumped up in joy at this while Weiss scoffed at the boy

Before Weiss could say anything Glynda came over the intercom:

"Would all first-year students please report to Beacon Cliff for

initiation? Again, all first-year students report to Beacon Cliff immediately."

Jaune quickly picked up his gear and walked off while waving at the girls "well I got to go and find my brother now, see ya."

He did not notice a pair of light-blue eyes staring irritably at his back.

A.N.: I will probably update a little slower on weekdays and the week before May because of AP exams. Just FYI

4. Day of Initiation Pt2

"For years, you have trained to become warriors, and today, your abilities will be evaluated in the Emerald Forest." Ozpin was standing in front of the newest batch of initiates on top of the cliffs overlooking the Emerald Forest. He had all but begged Glynda to let him stay in the clock tower; as a part of his obligation to Vale needed to view the newest information on the Queen and decide their next move, but the headmistress was adamant: as headmaster, Ozpin also has an obligation to show up, especially when the new students will be the next to defend all of Vale.

Facing the two teachers stood forty-nine students. Each had a unique style and weapon along with a myriad of thematic colors.

First in line were the Arc brothers; Jaune was in a black hoodie leather gloves and pieces of armor around his chest shoulder and wrists with an English long sword sheathed on his hip. Jace on the other hand was wearing a black trench coat with two silver crescents above his left breast. He had a Scottish claymore almost as tall as him strapped to his back.

"Why did you take the De Guerre? I thought dad said that the sword was forbidden to use by us kids." Jaune was kind of irked by the fact that Jace had teased him about the fact that he had to sneak out of the house with the Crocea Mors while Jace himself took a sword that their dad had explicitly prohibited them from using.

"Well that was because when he was polishing it he found the transform mechanism had jammed. I agreed to fix it if I could bring it along to beacon with us." Jace had only practiced with the giant sword once and his dad was furious afterwards, saying something about angering dragons or something.

"What!..."

"Students! Please be respectful and listen to your headmaster, he has valuable information that might just save your life!" Glynda had enough of Jace's rudeness for one day already and was determined to not let him continue any longer, "Now, I'm sure many of you have heard rumors about the assignment of "teams." Well, allow us to put an end to your confusion. Each of you will be given teammates... today. These teammates will be with you for the rest of your time here at Beacon. So it is in your best interest to be paired with someone with whom you can work well."

A few of the students were obviously excited to hear how they will be

paired up.

"That being said, the first person you make eye contact with after landing will be your partner for the next four years." The shock on the faces of the students was one of the few things that Ozpin enjoyed nowadays. "After you've partnered up, make your way to the northern end of the forest. You will meet opposition along the way. Do not hesitate to destroy everything in your path... or you ****will**** die."

"Sir?"

"Take your positions"

"Sir!?"

"Ready?"

"Uh, no, sir?"

"Good" Ozpin grinned deviously

"Ahhh!" Jaune was launched through the air and across the forest canopy.

"Here we go." Jace just shook his head at the sight of his brother wailing in the air as he was also launched skyward.

One by one, the students were flung into the forest. Almost all of the students had their own landing strategy. Yang used her shotgun gauntlet to propel herself forward. Ruby fired repeatedly and then opened her scythe and swung around a tree to slow her descent. And Pyrrha crashed through the forest and landed on a branch before scouting around her, using her MilÃ³ in rifle form to look for the blonde boy whom drawn her attention.

When Pyrrha finally found her mark, she turned her weapon into a javelin and launched it at Jaune.

Jaune had finally stopped wailing and stabilized in the air. He decided that the best way to land right now is to jump in between trees and slow himself down. Just as he was about to reached the canopy when he heard a whistling sound. He turned his face and saw a red pike coming straight at him, before he could react to it, Jaune's hoodie got caught by the javelin and he crashed into the tree behind him.

"Oh come on, who the heck throws a javelin at fellow students!?"

Jaune was not having a good day so far

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><p>Jace was not having a good day so far.<p>

Jace had no problems with flying or landing. He just pulled out his claymore and used it to carve a tree in half in order to slow himself down. But that is not all that happened today, now is it?

First, he finds out that his secret identity is no longer secret, then Ozpin tells him that there is a threat and that his father will be involved, THEN, he was launched into a Grimm infested forest by a maniac of a headmaster, and NOW his is surrounded by a pack of GOD DAMN BEOWOLVES! SCREW YOU TOO OZPIN!

Of course, this is not the first time that Jace took on a pack of Grimm. He had previously been sent on missions, albeit with supervision by trained huntsmen, to exterminate groups of Grimm along the walls of Arcadia, and today is no different than those.

Whoosh

Jace sped forward, his giant sword in one hand held behind him as he ran across the forest floor at the beowolves.

Slash

He cut one in half right across the torso. Another beowolf tried to swipe at Jace's back, but Jace used the momentum from the first strike to swing around and slice that one across the face. A third one charged at him, but he used his extended reach with the claymore to skew the Grimm through the head.

One by one, Jace fell the beowolves without breaking a sweat, "no alphas, huh? Completely fine with me."

Whoosh

A red and bronze blur flew pass right above Jace without even noticing him.

* * *

><p>"Ugh" Jaune was still stuck on the tree with the crimson javelin stuck on his hoodie. He tried to remove it but the pike was stuck too deep in the tree and refused to budge. "Wait, isn't this Pyrrha's weapon? Why would she throw it at me?"<p>

There was a shuffle in the bushes in front of Jaune. "Ah, crap. I am like a fish in the barrel here!"

"Jaune? Is that you?" Pyrrha appeared behind the bush and looked around her "he should be around here."

"Hey Pyrrha."

"Jaune! Where are you?"

"Up here."

Pyrrha looked up to see Jaune waving at her. "Now you wouldn't have a way to get me down would you?"

"Yeah hold up" Pyrrha focused into her hands and a dark aura enshrouded the javelin above Jaune's head.

"Whoa!" Jaune managed to stick the landing and stand back up without any injuries.

"I'm so sorry! Are you ok?" Pyrrha quickly ran towards the blonde.

"Yeah I'm fine. Nice throw though." Jaune smiled at Pyrrha. "Guess we are partners, eh?"

"Yeah, I guess we are." Pyrrha peered into the deep blue eyes, almost lost in its purity.

"Pyrrha?" Jaune was getting slightly flushed at the proximity of the redhead.

"Oh, sorry." Pyrrha quickly turned her face around so that Jaune could not see her blush.

Jaune extended a hand to her and slightly chuckled, "Let's get going, shall we?"

"Yeah, let us go"

"Are you sure this is where we are supposed to go" Pyrrha asked as the partners stood right in front of a large cave.

There was a series of faded drawings on the wall. Some showed a group of humans holding spears against a large dark scorpion.

"We did go north so, yeah I think it is." Jaune was just as skeptical but they have been walking for hours and this was the best spot for hiding relics. "But be careful though, there might be things guarding the relics."

Neither teens noticed eight dark crimson eyes focused on their silhouette.

5. Day of Initiation Pt3

"Now where did she go?" Jace was following a red themed girl through the forest, hoping to catch up to her. "Come on, she was right in front of me!"

Jace spent the next three hours just scouring the forest randomly, looking for a partner. By now it was noon and he still hasn't spotted a single soul besides the phantom redhead. "Well I better head north now. Don't want to be in the forest by dusk. Ozpin can't fail me either way, right?"

As he jumped across the tree branches he heard a loud boom. Critters all around him started to run in the opposite direction. "Uh oh, this can't be good."

Suddenly a blonde and a redhead burst through the bushes underneath Jace. It was Jaune and Pyrrha, running desperately away from something. "Hey Jaune, what's the hurry?" Jace turned around and kept pace with them.

"DEATHSTALKER!" Jaune screamed back at his brother.

"What did you guys do!?" Jace jumped down to ground level to run

parallel to the two others.

"We kind of ran into its nest and slashed at its face." Pyrrha was a little more calm but not by much.

"Why the hell would you do that?"

"We thought it was the relic."

"Are you serious!?"

* * *

><p>Ozpin was amused by the development. He had anticipated several high level Grimm in the forest and purposefully left them there in order to test the Princes along with the champion. This of course did not go well with Glynda Goodwitch and the head mistress is now trying to call off the initiation.<p>

"Now, Glynda, this is a good chance to witness the skills of the new students. They will be well challenged and it will be a good learning experience for them."

"In my experience, learning only happens if the students are alive in the first place."

Ozpin smiled at his 'assistant', "just trust me this once will you? They will be fine"

Glynda hated to admit it, but Ozpin always has a way to predict the future and was never wrong in his decisions.

"Fine but if anyone gets hurt, I will not take any responsibility."

"That's fine"

* * *

><p>"I think we outran it, guys" Jaune was fighting for each breath as they desperately ran away from the deathstalker.<p>

As the three teens stopped they saw an old ruin. What was left of the marble pillars formed a semicircle. There were several chess pieces standing on smaller posts in the same formation as the larger pillars.

"So are these supposed to be the relics?" Pyrrha asked as she picked up a golden rook.

Before any of her companions could answer, an Ursa crashed through the forest. Before they could ready their weapons however, the Ursa fell down and from its back jumped down an orange haired girl. "Aww, it broke" even Jace cringed when they heard that "RENNY! I think we are here!"

Immediately a black haired boy with magenta eyes ran out of the forest, panting. He was in worse shape than the three that came before him. "Nora, slow down!"

"Ooh, Renny, look!" the orange ball of energy dashed over to the other gold rook and grabbed it, "I'm queen of the castle! I'm queen of the castle!"

Ren just sighed.

Soon more students started to pop out of the forest.

First came Yang and another girl whom Jace recognized as the quiet one from the entrance.

"Ooh, cute little pony. Blake can we pick this one?" Yang took the golden knights while her partner only nodded silently in response. "Now where is Ruby?"

As soon as Yang said that a scream came from above. "LOOK OUT BELOW"

"I got her!" Jace quickly ran forward and caught Ruby

"Thanks."

"No problem."

"Uh, Ruby?" Jaune was worried, "why did you fall out of the sky?"

"We were riding a giant Nevermore!" Ruby beamed at the blonde, "It was really fun!"

"Wait What!? What do you mean by 'we' rode a nevermore?"

Suddenly a shadow covered then entire ruin as an alpha nevermore flew above the students.

"WEISS, YOU ARE SUPPOSE TO JUMP" there was a small white spot on the flying grimm.

"I AM NOT JUMPING" Weiss barely finished the sentence before she was thrown from the nevermore and towards the ruins

"Pyrrha! Put your shield up!" the champion quickly understood what her partner was getting at and put her shield above her head.

Jaune ran at Pyrrha and used her shield as a launch pad to jump into the air and caught Weiss.

"Hey Snow Angel."

"PUT ME DOWN YOU BARBARIAN!" Weiss squirmed in Jaune's arms and the knight quickly put her down.

"Hey sis, I saved you a piece!" Yang handed one of her knight pieces to Ruby as Weiss stood back up.

"I think I'll take this one" Jace decided on the black knight and put it into his pocket.

"Hey Jace, where is your partner?"

"I didn't find anyone."

Before anyone could say anything, the deathstalker from before crashed into the ruins, this time with tons of smaller Grimm. Soon the nevermore also flew back at them.

"Uh oh. Jaune what's the plan?" Jace and Jaune had been on many missions where they were surrounded and Jaune would always be the tactician while Jace did most of the actual fighting.

The blonde quickly turned into his commanding mode and starting issuing orders "Ruby, Weiss, Yang and Blake, you guys focus on the Nevermore. Bring it into closer to the cliff, that way there is less space for it to maneuver." The sisters and their partners nodded and started to distract the nevermore with gunfire.

"Nora and Ren, suppress the lesser Grimm and make sure they don't become a problem"

"You got it, fearless leader!" Nora was already starting to lob grenades at the borbatusks.

"Pyrrha, you and I will take care of the Alphas. Jace, can you take care of the deathstalker?"

"Are you sure Jaune, are you sure he won't need help?" Pyrrha was skeptical of leaving Jace to handle the large Grimm alone; even she would have trouble with a deathstalker of that size.

"I'll be fine, Pyrrha, that is your name right? Anyways, just don't get too close to me while I am fighting." Jace had a mysterious smile as he walked closer towards the deathstalker.

"So ugly, it's just me and you, eh?" Jace taunted the much larger Grimm. The deathstalker seemed to understand what the human said and screeched in response. "Me and you the same, buddy"

The deathstalker charged at Jace who just simply drew his claymore. Holding the long blade with both hands, the black haired teen blocked the first strike.

Finding that it's left hook being obstructed, the nevermore quickly swung its right pincer. Jace pressed a button on the hilt of his weapon and the long sword spilt into two identical, thinner claymores.

The deathstalker then went with a strike with its stinger. Jace quickly jumped above the Grimm before slashing both swords at the ligament between the tail and the stinger, severing the golden spike from the deathstalker.

As the giant Grimm screamed in pain, Jace then stabbed his blades into the cracks in between the armor on the arm and the torso. With a slight amount of force, Jace also de-armed the monster. Unable to withstand the trauma, the deathstalker tried to shake Jace off of its back and retreat back into the forest. Jace, however, was not finished, he recombined the two blades into one sword and jumped towards a nearby tree. He then pushed off of the trunk of said tree and slammed his weapon straight onto the head of the deathstalker, shattering armor plating with brute force. With one final screech,

the deathstalker started to disintegrate while Jace walked towards his friends.

* * *

><p>Nora never had so much fun before. She smashed Grimm after Grimm, crushing each skull with a satisfying crunch. Ren on the other hand just ran to and fro around the smaller Grimms and firing his machine pistols.<p>

Jaune and Pyrrha were dueling with the larger and more armored alphas. Well dueling would not be the right term because they were complimenting each other with each strike and often focused on the same target. Jaune would shield bash one Grimm while Pyrrha would slash at the belly. They would repeat this process with all of the Ursa majors. When it came to the beowolves, however, they would have to fight every Grimm in the pack, so Pyrrha would charge straight in at the alpha while Jaune would be right behind her protecting her flanks. They were complementing each other perfectly with each slash and stab.

Soon after Jace took care of the deathstalker, Ruby and her group were able to corner the nevermore at the base of the cliffs. With the help of Weiss's glyph and Blake's Gambol Shroud, Ruby launched herself at the bird and ascended the cliff with the Grimm in tow with her scythe. As she reached the summit, the Grimm got caught in a small notch on the side of the cliff and Ruby decapitated it in one fell swoop.

As she walked to the edge of the cliff, Ruby could see her new friends cheering and hugging each other.

None of them noticed the pair of brown eyes staring intensely at them.

6. The Calvary will Arrive

"Russel Thrush. Cardin Winchester. Dove Bronzewing. Sky Lark. The four of you retrieved the black bishop pieces. From this day forward, you will work together as Team CRDL, led by... Cardin Winchester!" Several in the audience gave a standing ovation as the four students walked off the stage.

"Jaune Arc. Lie Ren. Pyrrha Nikos. Nora Valkyrie. The four of you retrieved the white rook pieces. From this day forward, you will work together as Team JNPR. Led byâ€¦ Jaune Arc!" Pyrrha bumped Jaune's shoulder congratulating him while Nora jumped on to Ren.

"Finally: Blake Belladonna. Ruby Rose. Weiss Schnee. Yang Xiao Long." Ozpin motioned over the four as they stand before him "The four of you retrieved the white knight pieces. From this day forward, you will work together as Team RWBY. Led by... Ruby Rose!"

"Yay, sis! I'm so proud of you!" Ruby was desperately trying to breathe as gave her a bear hug.

"Now, normally hunters-in-training are divided into just four-man teams." Jace stared tentatively at the headmaster. He was the only one not called yet and the only one lacking a partner. "But with the

current resurgence of the Grimm, four hunters are no longer sufficient for many missions. As such we are introducing a specialist rank for Hunters-in-training, The Ranger."

"This rank will only be awarded to those whom showed extraordinary skill in the field." Jaune also realized what Ozpin was doing and smiled at Jace "Rangers will be sent on high risk missions and if needed, will reinforce standard four member teams in heavy combat. That being said, I am proud to introduce our first Ranger, Jace Arc!"

The crowd cheered as Jace stood up and smiled.

* * *

><p>Nora was running laps around Jace as the teens walked towards their dorms. "You were awesome! I mean you took down the deathstalker all by yourself!"<p>

Before Jace could even reply Ruby dashed to the weapon strapped on his back. "Ooh, a claymore! Does it do anything else? Like transform or shoot bullets?"

"Well sort of, it can separate into two thinner claymores or transform into a longbow." Ruby's eyes sparkled at each word that Jace just said.

"Does it have a name? My beloved's is Crescent Rose" Ruby started cuddling with her scythe in folded form.

"It actually does. Although I can't really pronounce it."

"_Grans espÃ©es de Guerre, _more commonly known as the Ascalon" Jaune spoke up, "it was used by Jorge Arc during the first of the Grimm Expeditions"

"See, I am not a nerd like him" Jace teased his brother.

"Yeah, and do you know why dad didn't want us using it?"

"Cus he is a stingy hoarder who wants all of the good swords to himself."

"NO! It is because supposedly it is one of the few swords capable of slaying a Draco!" Jaune had enough with his brother's laid back antics. "Also it attracts them to the user and that is not even talking about the price of slaying a Draco, which is death!"

"Wow" Ruby was practically sparkling on the side

"Come on, don't tell me you actually believe in that century load bull crap." Jace was getting annoyed at his brother.

"There is actually proof that it did happen." Blake actually stopped reading for once. Everyone just stared at her for a second as it was not like the monochrome girl to step into these conversations. "What? I prefer to be educated" Jace noticed that her bow twitched slightly as Blake flushed slightly while everyone else just accepted the answer.

"What about you Jaune? What do you use?" it was Pyrrha whom now spoke.

"Oh, just a long sword. The shield is also the sheath for it."

Before Jace could interject and say that it was the family heirloom the intercom came on. "Would Mr. Jace Arc and Mr. Jaune Arc please report to the Headmaster's office?"

"Oh boy, here we go again" Jace is starting to notice that whenever he is at Ozpin's office, nothing good ever happens.

* * *

><p>"Ozpin."<p>

"Your highnesses" Jace and Jaune narrowed their eyes as Ozpin was not one to use such formal titles.

"So what do you need?" Ozpin simply motioned towards the hologram in the center of the room and pressed a button on his table.

Beepâ€|Beepâ€|Beep

The hologram then crackled to life and soon displayed a handsome man in his mid-forties. He had curly light hair and wore a royal garb with smock of fine cambric and wide sleeves. On top of his head was a small crown of gold and sapphire.

Both teens quickly bowed down to the man "Jaune, why did you take the Crocea Mors? I thought that I strictly forbid you from bringing it with you to Beacon"

"I am sorry, Father, I..."

"Never mind, Jaune. Justâ€| try not to lose it." The boy's father was lamenting about something.

"James." Ozpin interrupted, "or should I call you 'your majesty' now?"

"Come on, Ozzie, we are old friends." James turned his frown into a smile "So, what's up?"

"I will be frank, your declaration will bring us unforeseen opportunities, but also unpredictable dangers." James frowned at Ozpin's words.

"I am sorry that I will be of an inconvenience to you Ozpin, but I have already sent my sons to you. I can't give you much more."

"Before we get to that, I think it is best to let the princes know of their role in this." Ozpin turned towards the two boys and James motioned for them to rise.

"Father, may I ask you what is it that you are talking about?" Jaune was perplexed as Jace grimaced next to him.

James sighed, "My children, we live in a far different world than you see right now. There is a great threat looming over all of Remnant."

"An old acquaintance of ours has declared war on all of humanity and wishes to wipe it out with the Grimm." Ozpin had a pained face as he said this. His complexion was full of both pain and regret, "and her henchman has infiltrated the four kingdoms, prepared to sow chaos into each city."

"And what do you require of us?" Jace was not in his usual laid back and casual tone, his voice was only formal and with respect.

"Jaune. intelligence from Qrow tells us that the Queen will most likely target Vale next, so I will keep a division of Arcadian shock troopers and a squadron of the Nightwing hidden on the soon to be border of Vale and Arcadia. They are yours to command if the Queen strikes." James brought up a map showing the current troop deployments that are allotted under his oldest son's command. "And Jace, we need you to go to the streets of the city to gather further intel. Under no circumstance are you to engage Queen or her allies, is that understood?"

"Yes, father." Both boys replied at the same time.

"Good, now Ozpin, in return for my help, I want you to keep my son's identities discreet. I can't risk them being targeted on purpose by the Queen or the SDC."

Ozpin nodded his head in response. "You have Beacon's staffs' full cooperation. We also wish to keep your children safe." Ozpin then turned around to the teenagers, "You two are now dismissed. You may return to your dorms now."

* * *

><p>"We can't tell Ironwood about the boys or the army we have at the border." James spoke up after the elevator doors closed.<p>

"Nor can we tell the council. They will surely oppose such action." Ozpin sighed "I wonder how many more allies we would have to lie to before this is over."

"Stop blaming yourself for her. It was her choice to go"

Neither men noticed the green eyes that started at them from the courtyard.

7. Prelude to Fall

As the brothers walked back to their dorms, Jaune spoke up "Do think that Dad and Ozpin were telling the truth?"

"What do you mean?"

"I mean about the Queen and who she serves."

"Well they definitely are not telling us the whole story that is for

sureâ€¦ But I don't think they were strictly lying to us either." Jace did trust Ozpin, but sometimes he can't help but worry that the headmaster will make the wrong decision. "Do you think you can handle the pressure of leading the troops when the time comes?"

"I don't know." Jaune sighed, "In this case, I hope I'll never have to."

"Well let's forget about this for now. We still have school tomorrow."

"Hey guys! How was the meeting with Ozpin?" Yang waved at them when they reached the dorms. Team JNPR's room is situated across from Team RWBY's room and next to Jace's individual dorm.

As Yang waved, everyone else looked over at them.

"It was fine. So, what did you guys do when we were gone?"

"As the only team leader here, I decreed that we shall first decorate the rooms!" Ruby proudly

"Oh Fearless Leader! Can I paint my part of the room pink? Pretty please!?" Nora practically jumped onto Jaune.

"Ren? Pyrrha? Do you guys have any objections?"

"I think we should refrain from drastically changing the room." Pyrrha was cautious on how she said it while Ren just straight up denied Nora. He was used to living with her, "No Nora, nor will you have a sloth zoo in our dorm."

"Aww, but slothes are sooo cute!" Nora then turned Jaune, "fearless leader, would you please allow me to have a sloth zoo?"

Meanwhile, Team RWBY were hanging their beds up on the ceiling, creating makeshift bunks.

Jace just shook his head as he walked into his dorm quietly.

* * *

><p>Jace found all of his belongings piled in the middle of the room with his weapon on top. The room itself was not that big, there was a single Queens sized bed and a walk-in closet. Next to each side of the bed were nightstands. The window was situated to the right of the bed and the door to the bathroom on the opposite side.<p>

After putting his sword behind the doorway, Jace decided to take a quick shower. He didn't really need it, but Jace liked to use the time to think. He reached into his duffle bag and brought out a change of clothes and a towel.

After the shower, Jace put on a shirt and jeans and then started to unpack his belongings. He didn't bring too much to Beacon: three sets of clothes, trench coat, De Guerre, Arcadian scroll, a pair of shades and a special quiver of dust arrows and small knives. The blades and arrows were held by individual leather latches and the quiver itself wrapped around his waist underneath his coat. Other than that, the only things that he owned were the Beacon uniform, and his new

scroll. As he put all of his clothes

Knock knock.

Jace quickly put the quiver under the bed and walked to the door. As he opened the door, he saw Yang at the door way.

"Hey big boy, you wanna celebrate us getting into Beacon together?" Yang decided that she would try and tease the black haired teen. She had just did the same thing with Jaune and he totally freaked out. Although Pyrrha did not look too happy at that.

Jace caught on to what Yang was trying to do and chuckled, "You rather not see my brother drunk."

"Who said your brother is coming?" Yang raised an eyebrow.

"Yang, you teasing might work on my brother, but I have seen better" Jace winked at Yang who just pouted indignantly.

"Fine, Ruby just wanted us to have a small get together in our dorm before school actually start."

"Sorry, I actually have to go into Vale to pick up a couple of things." It's been a while since Jace contacted his informants in Vale and he needed to make sure they are still alive.

* * *

><p>Jaune was exhausted to say the least. He had to watch over Nora as Pyrrha and Ren took their turns in the shower first. The orange ball of energy would come up with a crazy idea every five minutes, like a petting zoo, or a pancake house in their small dorm. Soon, it was his turn to take a shower and he bolted into the bathroom as soon as Ren came out.<p>

When he came out, he saw Ruby in the door way talking to Pyrrha. "Jaune, Ruby was just asking us if we wanted to hang out in their dorm for a while."

"It'll be like a small party before school actually start." Ruby was clearly excited for it.

"Sure, I think that would be great. As long as we don't go to sleep too late."

* * *

><p>Jace had taken a bullhead into Vale soon after Yang left his room. He wore his signature trench coat and strapped the De Guerre on to his back. It was better to keep a weapon handy during these trips; sometimes the bystanders of a deal get a little too aggressive.<p>

He soon arrived at Junior's club. As he walked in, he was struck by the familiar wall of cigarette smoke and loud disco music.

Jace sat down at the bar and motioned to the bartender, "What would you like today sir?"

"Raspberry juice and Vodka on ice please, stirred." Jace smirked. The bartender's eyes widened and reached behind the bar to push a button while mixing Jace's drink.

"Sir, Mr. Shadow is requesting a meeting." The bartender whispered into his earpiece. "Yes, sir"

"Mr. Shadow, please wait a few moments. My boss is in the middle of a meeting right now." Said the bartender as he handed Jace the drink.

"No hurry, just here for a visit." Jace smiled at the bartender who clearly deflated a bit at the gesture.

"Aren't you a little too young to be drinking at a bar?" Jace turned to see an older woman staring at him. Her amber eyes burned into the boy.

"Thank you. Do I truly look that young?" The woman laughed. She was a clear beauty. Her ashen-black hair draped across her bare shoulder on the left side. The dark mass of hair was attenuated by the bright crimson dress with gold highlights that she wore. Jace would be caught in a daze by her beauty if not for his experience in espionage.

Both missed a pair of grey eyes staring at them from an observation room above the dance floor.

8. Dancing with the Enemy

Hei "Junior" Xiong was not an extraordinarily brave man. He was only a bar owner who just happened to be a shady information broker. When he entered into this business, he had expected a long and prosperous life. He would not have to face the dangers a typical gangster would, nor would he ever be short on money.

But right now the prospect looked grim.

He is currently in a meeting with a couple of brats whom work for the Queen, an infamous woman whom was able to subdue Adam Taurus, the White Fang Leader. The kids wanted to keep him quiet about the Queens movements and provide grunts for the Queen's plans. They even offered to pay him large sums lien.

At first he thought they were joking around, but when they pointed out their employer in the midst of the crowd, his blood froze.

There stood the Queen, her hair loose, flowing like ash, falling from the sky, her amber eyes burned into whomever dared to stand before her. Yes she was exceptionally gorgeous, but Junior was too smart to fall for that. She was the classic Femme Fatale; her beauty, mystical, and her intentions, enigmatic.

Junior was about to agree with the terms of the deal when one of his henchmen walked in holding a phone. "Front desk, Sir."

"What is it? Can't you see I am in the middle of a meeting?" Junior yelled at the man. He did not need any distractions right now.

"Sir, Mr. Shadow is requesting a meeting." The man relayed the message from the bar to Junior, who practically jumped up in joy.

'Mr. Shadow' was an old acquaintance.

Junior had met him when the mercenary came in for information on the Valean Council Members and offered pay handsomely for it. It was a rare request, most criminals would stay away from the politicians, fearing organized retaliation. What was rarer was the fact that the kid was only fifteen at the time. Soon, the assassin became a regular client for Junior and even once defended his nightclub. They struck up an odd friendship and would often have drinks at the bar while discussing the developments in Vale.

Despite his young age, this Crescent Shadow had made a name for himself. He would complete almost any mission; corporate espionage, daylight assassinations, VIP protection, petty theft, they were all within his capabilities. But what set this 'boy' apart from everyone else was his honor, he would never harm innocents, he would never kill in cold blood, nor would he ever do a mission just for money.

Junior had an idea, he will ask his friend to take care of the Queen. No doubt the Shadow would agree to eliminate a target more dangerous than the White Fang.

"Please tell him to wait, I will be done with the meeting shortly." Junior finally could end this stupid meeting and have a drink.

He 'reluctantly' agreed to the terms dictated by the two assassins and bid them goodbye.

Finally he can have a drink with an old friend.

* * *

><p>Normally Cinder would left Mercury and Emerald to a job as simple as this, but she was bored. Their contact in Haven still hasn't responded yet and the White Fang is still gathering dust with Torchwick.<p>

So, she decided that she would go with Mercury and Emerald and have some fun at the nightclub, maybe even have a one-night stand.

When she walked into the nightclub she went straight to the bar. Cinder needed a drink from all of the stress of planning an invasion.

"Margarita on rocks, extra tequila please." The bartender nodded and started mixing her drink.

Cinder waited patiently and looked around the club. Her aides had disappeared with Junior's cronies to somewhere else. The bartender handed her the drink and moved to another customer.

"Raspberry juice and Vodka on ice please, stirred." She raised an eyebrow at the weird request. Most people would of have just asked for raspberry vodka. *(A.N.: Raspberry vodka is vodka that is with raspberry flavoring. Jace ordered a mix of Raspberry Juice and white

vodka.) **

As she turned to face the man and she was even more surprised. In front of her stood a man, no, a boy that was way too young to be drinking at a bar. She herself was no stranger to underage drinking but she was surprised that the bartender didn't even blink at his request.

"Aren't you a little too young to be drinking at a bar?" Cinder asked.

"Thank you, do I look truly that young?" Cinder got the joke and laughed.

"Hi, my name is Cinder"

"Jace" the boy nodded at her.

"Tell me, really, how old are you?"

"Well, I might be a bit too young in Vale standards, but I am of drinking age from where I come from." Jace was enjoying the curve ball life had thrown at him. He came expecting to drink with an old friend, instead he got a pretty girl.

"Oh, and by the looks of it, you are a student, of Beacon, I presume." Cinder eyed the blade that Jace carried on his back.

"Maybe." Jace smirked at the woman in front of him.

"Excuse me, Mr. Xiong wishes to invite you to a drink." The bartender interrupted their conversation.

"Tell him I'll be right there." Jace then turned to Cinder, "I come here every Sunday at eight, let's finish our conversation some other time."

"I'll be waiting." Cinder winked. She was surprised that the boy knew Junior well enough to be having drinks with the informant.

As Jace walked away from the bar, he did not miss the pair of amber eyes that gazed at his back.

9. I Find a Confidant In You

Jaune was having a great time at the get together. Nora and Yang went to the cafeteria and raided the fridge for food and drinks while Pyrrha and Ruby set up a movie. Even Blake helped out by getting bean bags from the library.

After a while, he decided to go to the roof and have a bit of fresh air. This week had taken quite a bit out of him. A part of him missed the comforts of home, the lack of responsibilities and the dreams of childhood.

Since he was a kid Jaune dreamed of becoming a hunter. He heard stories from his grandfather of heroes and villains and of rivals and lovers. Jace always said that he wanted a peaceful and long life.

Jaune didn't care if he died too early, as long as he died helping the world.

And now he was forced to lead an army. Jaune wasn't nervous, he had done plenty of simulations against master tacticians and came on top in more than a few. But he was scared. He was scared of what is to come and of the uncertainty that the future brings.

"Sigh"

"What's wrong Jaune?" Jaune turned around only to see his partner. Her emerald eyes shined in the moonlight that lit the roof.

"Nothing, Pyrrha, nothing at all." Jaune lied to his partner only because Ozpin ordered him to.

"Stop it. I know you are lying." Pyrrha frowned at Jaune.

"Is it that obvious?"

"No, but I know because you use the same face that I show when talking to reporters." Jaune shouldn't be surprised at this fact but he couldn't help but feel some warmth while talking to Pyrrha.

"We are really one of the same, aren't we?"

"What do you mean? Pyrrha was confused at the rhetorical question, "what do you mean, Jaune?"

"I mean that I know how you feel." Jaune closed his eyes and then looked up at the shattered moon. "I know what it feels like to be all alone because of what you are, because of what everyone else expects of you."

"â€|" Pyrrha widened her eyes, "does it have something to do with the headmaster?"

"Yesâ€|" Jaune hesitated.

"We are partners, Jaune, you can tell me." Pyrrha walked closer to Jaune

"Well I am not supposed to, but I guess you have a right to know at least this." Jaune peered into Pyrrha's green orbs. "How familiar are you with the Great War?"

"I know what they taught in the schools. I never really researched it outside of academics."

"Well do you at least know Julius Arc?" Jaune sat down by the railing and motioned for Pyrrha to sit next to him.

"Yeah, he was the Valean general who lead the Grand Alliance forces right?"

"Yeah, and he is my great-great-grandfather." Pyrrha widened her eyes again, "He fought for the lives of both Humans and Faunus. The Faunus originally lived in separate tribes outside of the cities. They were much more adept at killing Grimm but their numbers were much less

than Humans. When the Faunus and Humans came together to fight the Grimm there was an agreement made, that Faunus would be integrated into human society and given equal rights"

Jaune paused for a second. "Julius Arc was the architect of the agreement, and the four kingdoms only signed it because they needed the Faunus to win. After the war was over, each kingdom immediately started to repress Faunus rights. My great-great-grandfather saw this as a betrayal and led whomever wished to follow him north, to found their own Kingdom." Pyrrha immediately realized what this entailed, but Jaune continued. "When the CCT project was created, this new kingdom was not a participant mainly because the other four kingdoms did not want their cheap labor force to know that there was a better place to go. So this new kingdom, which we call Arcadia, was not included in the communications network"

"Vale used this chance to claim to the public that Arcadia was an extended territory that they created. It was all a bunch of horseshit. Vale had not contributed a cent to the creation of our haven, yet they were able to raise taxes there because we didn't have a strong military. Well that is about to change, because my father decided that it would be a good time to declare independence and separate from the four kingdoms"

"And you are going to have to take over the kingdom after your father." Pyrrha finished the thought for her partner.

"Yes." Jaune sighed again, "You see, we both have a lot to live up to. You, to your reputation, and me to my heritage."

"I think you will make a great leader one day."

"Thanks" Jaune started to get up only to trip on his own foot and fall on top of Pyrrha.

"oof"

"Sorry. Are you ok"

"Yeah, I am fine, how about you?"

"I'm good" Pyrrha suddenly noticed that Jaune was straddling her and their faces were mere inches apart.

"OOH, RENNY COME QUICK, FEARLESS LEADER AND PYRRHA ARE BOOPING!"

"This is gold!" Yang was holding her scroll and taking pictures

"How are you so indecent?" Weiss was bright red and Ruby was the same shade as her hood. "We tried everywhere to search for you guys and this is what we see!?"

Pyrrha's and Jaune's faces turned crimson

"So how long are you going to stay on top of her Lady Killer?"

Jaune practically jumped off of Pyrrha.

"Uhh, so how long have you guys been there?" Jaune was fearful that

they heard the whole conversation.

"So does that mean you were doing things before we came?" Yang was having a field day.

Pyrrha turned even redder while Jaune internally breathed out in relief. His secret is still safe.

None of the students saw a pair of brown eyes looking at them from the tower above.

10. Meeting to Catch

"So, how's life been treating you?" Junior was excited to talk to his old friend and regular client again. The Crescent Shadow had completely disappeared from Vale a couple of months ago and Junior thought the kid might have finally kicked the bucket. "Thought someone has finally gotten to you."

"No, just got bored, so I took a vacation up north." Junior chuckled at the thought of the professional killer ever being caught or even just plain tired.

"Want to play a game of pool?"

"Sure" Jace decided to take the challenge. He was not particularly good at the game. It was too slow for him and required too much math.

"If I win, I want the pair of shades that you walked in to the bar with the first time we met."

Jace had a particular fondness of that pair of sunglasses. He bought it when he first came in contact with the underworld, thinking that it would make him look cool. "Deal, and if I win, I want that watch on your wrist."

"Deal" Junior and Jace took their drinks and moved to another room.

"So how's business going?" Jace set his drink down on to a stand in the room. There was a minibar with snacks and drinks, opposite of that was a fancy velvet couch with gold highlights and a window right above it. Jace had been in this room plenty of times. Sometimes to play a game and others to settle a deal.

"Good, though could use some help. You still up for hire?"

Jace chuckled. "Sorry, got a pretty long contract going on right now."

Jace took the break shot and nine fell in.

"Care to share?"

"Well I am stuck in Beacon for the time being, that's about all I can share. Why do you ask?" Jace was curious, Junior had never asked him for help directly before. He had always 'stumble' on to the club owner's problems. "Another blonde tearing up your club?"

Junior laughed, "Oh no, not that. Just got some trouble that is bad for business." He waited for the Shadow's response.

"Go on." Jace nodded. He aimed for the eleven but missed
"Damn"

Junior took his position and aimed for the three, "Well you heard of the Queen?" He shot and got it in.

"You mean the woman who supposedly pacified Adam Taurus?" Jace twitched slightly but kept his thoughts to himself.

"Yeah, two of her henchmen came by, brats really, and wanted me to shut up. They did pay me pretty well though." Junior took another shot. Six fell into another hole.

"What's your problems them, She is paying you right?"

"Yeah, but I still got bills to pay. After the last blonde tore up the place, I had to use all of my reserves for fixing this place up. And you know that selling information is my main source of income." Junior aimed again and got the one in.

"Damn, you are kicking my ass. Well, how does this involve me?"

"Well I was wondering if you can take care of her for me." Junior decided to miss the next shot on purpose. "All I have are grunts, so I can't really go up against someone of that caliber. Thought you might be able to soften up my day a little."

Jace thought about it, if by any hair of a chance that Junior saw the Queen, it would make his investigation a whole lot easier. "Maybe I can, you got a face?" Jace shot and hit the thirteen in.

"She is here actually." Jace stood up from the pool table and looked at Junior

"She is here?"

"Yeah," Junior pointed through the window at the bar. "Sitting at the bar, talking to the grey haired boy and green haired girl."

Jace's eyes widened for a split second; He trusted Junior enough to know that Junior would not betray him to some bounty hunter, so he needed make sure that she was the real Queen.

"Ha-ha, nice one." Jace laughed it off.

"What? You don't believe me?" Junior was irritated for sure.

"No it is not that. It's more like 'How the hell do you plan for me to get close to that?'" Jace continued to pretend to laugh. "I mean, look at me, I am a teenager. What am I going say? 'Hey, you want to commit statutory rape so I can kill you and claim that it was self defense?'"

"That is not a bad idea actually."

Jace deadpanned at his friend, "Tell you what, if you win this match I'll look into it, no promises though."

"I guess that is better than nothing. Want another drink?"

"No thanks, still have to go back to the school after this, don't want to be too tipsy when I arrive."

They went back to the pool table to finish their game.

* * *

><p>Cinder was perplexed. A boy managed to get invited into the VIP room in Junior's Club. She herself had only to wait months on end in order to schedule a meeting while this kid just waltzed in and did what she couldn't.<p>

"Hey boss, how's the drinks here?" Oh boy, it is her annoying little assassin, Mercury Black. The kid is so full of himself, and he wouldn't shut up about it even if his life depended on it.

"Mercury! We are not allowed to drink yet!" Next to him stood the thief, Emerald.

"So how was the meeting?" Cinder was eager to hear the results. She needed the best informant in Vale to be quiet about her movements and keep Ozpin guessing.

"He agreed, albeit a bit reluctant." Emerald replied while Mercury walked around the club looking for girls.

"That was expected. Did you see anyone go in after you did?" Cinder wanted to know who the mysterious teen was.

"No, but during our meeting we were interrupted by a call from the front desk, seemed like someone important."

"Hmm, "

"Is something wrong?" Emerald was scared of her boss, but she also cared for the woman, as she was the one that gave her a new meaning to life after she ran away.

"Nothing, just found a new 'access point' point of sorts."

"What is it?"

"Oh, just a person who goes to Beacon."

Emerald's eyes widened at this. "And what are you planning to do with him?"

"Bring him to our cause, of course. He did look kind of cute."

Emerald's eyes even went wider. She did not believe what she was hearing from her boss.

Neither of them noticed the two pairs of eyes looking at them from the VIP room.

11. Let the Game Begin!

"So what were you two doing up on the roof by yourselves?" Weiss frowned and folded her arms at Pyrrha. She was internally shocked that the champion would do such an indecent thing.

After the fiasco on the roof the Pyrrha was dragged by her female classmates into team RWBY's room. She had hoped that Jaune would bail her out, but the boy just smiled sadly at her.

"Wellâ€¦"

"Come on P-money, were you and lover boy having fun without us?" Yang wiggled her eyebrows at the redhead. She loved teasing others and make them squirm. Ruby hit her sister on the shoulder, "Yang!"

"Ow, calm down Ruby, I am just joking!"

"Well, Jaune asked if I could help with his training and I agreed to it." Pyrrha decided that it was better for Jaune to tell their friends when he was ready and that she shouldn't inform them before him. "We sat down and talked for a bit, and when he tried to get up, he tripped on my skirt and fell."

"Getting hands on, I see." Yang was enjoying this oh so much.

The Heiress glared at the brawler while Pyrrha turned bright red, "Are you sure the dolt wasn't trying to do anything?" Weiss did not trust neither Jace nor Jaune. Jace had been very rude from the start and Jaune seemed like an idiot to her.

"Yes, Jaune wouldn't do anything like that."

"I wouldn't be so sure, you never know about hormonal teenaged boys."

"Weiss, stop being mean to Jaune, he is a nice guy." Ruby stepped in. She wasn't going to have her teammate badmouth her first friend.

"Aww, Ruby has a crush!" Yang grabbed Ruby into a bear hug

"Yang!" Ruby's face turned bright crimson. Pyrrha look at the young reaper enigmatically.

Blake just stood on the side reading her book.

* * *

><p>"Where is Jace?" Jaune was curious where his brother went.<p>

"I think Yang knows." Nora and Ren were with him in their room. They were playing videogames after the girls kicked them out of the other room.

"I'll ask her when they finish with whatever they are doing to Pyrrha" Jaune decided to not interrupt whatever is happening in the other room. He did not want to get involved.

"What happened on the roof?" Ren asked.

"Fearless leader and Pyrrha wereâ€|." Jaune quickly put his hands on Nora's mouth.

"Rather not talk about it. It was pretty embarrassing." The black haired teen just nodded at his friend's statement. "You two are pretty good at this. Jace would always rage quit after five minutes."

"Thanks, Nora taught me how to play."

"Huh, I would of have thought that you couldn't focus enough to sit down." Nora just smiled sheepishly at the boys

Jaune looked at his clock. 9:30. "Alright, I think we should stop now. We still have to wash up and there is only one bathroom in our room."

"Good point. You can go first, I'll watch over Nora" the blonde smiled at Ren's suggestion.

* * *

><p>"Ah, Damn it." Jace had just lost his game against Junior.<p>

"I still want my shades."

"Yeah, Yeah. I'll get them to you next Sunday." Jace didn't wanted to lose. He liked that pair of sunglasses, but Junior deserved something for locating the Queen for Jace.

"You better. Now about the Queenâ€|"

"Yeah I got it. Thanks for the drink. I need to get back to Beacon now."

"Have a good trip."

"Thanks." They waved goodbye at each other.

As Jace walked out of the VIP room, he saw Cinder and her followers next to the bar. He walked up to the trio, "Hey, you are still here."

"Yeah" Cinder smiled at the black haired teen.

Jace smiled back and nodded at Emerald and Mercury. "Care to introduce us?"

"Oh, how rude of me, this is Emerald Sustraiâ€|" Cinder motioned at the dark skinned girl, who waved.

"Hi"

"â€|and this is Mercury Black." Pointed at the grey haired teen.

"Yo"

"Nice to meet you." Jace nodded slightly again and focused his attention back on to the Queen, "I wish I could stay longer, but I have to go back now. See you next week?"

"I'll be waiting." Cinder smiled coyly at him.

Jace acknowledged it and waved good bye, "see you then."

* * *

><p>"He wasn't so bad. More discreet than the other three billion hormonal teenagers." Emerald chuckled when Jace was out of earshot.<p>

"Hmpf, he is exactly like the three billion others, just cockier. Just look at the sword on his back, he is definitely overcompensating." Mercury snorted.

"Yeah, and your ego is overcompensating." Emerald retorted at the assassin.

"Hey, ladies love my ego."

"Children! We need to move. It is getting late and I still need to meet with our little criminal mastermind tonight." Cinder began to walk out of the club. What disturbed the teens behind her was that she was humming.

* * *

><p>Jaune had finished his shower when his partner came back to their team's dorm room looking like she just fell through a tree. "Hey Pyrrha", Jaune smiled.<p>

"I hate you." Pyrrha half scowled, trying to hold back a smile.

"I am sorry" Jaune scratched the back of his head. "I thought it was best you leave the girly talk to you. How about this, I'll compensate in any way you like."

Pyrrha smiled deviously, "Fine, you will have to buy me as much Chocolate Mousse as I want next time we go into Vale."

"Wow, the champ has a soft spot for Chocolates, did not see that" Jaune smiled but internally he was not ready to shell out his entire allowance for this.

"Let's go to sleep first. Tomorrow is a big day"

* * *

><p>Ozpin stared at his scroll in disbelief. He was on the roof of his tower looking over the Emerald forest when he received this text:<p>

Ozpin, made contact with the Queen. Will continue observations. Requesting exemption from combat classes.

He had expected the Crescent Shadow to work fast, but he had not

expected things to happen this quick.

Ozpin quickly dialed Glynda's scroll number. "Hello, Glynda, please tell Qrow to focus on the White Fang, we found the Queenâ€¦ Yes, it was himâ€¦ well I trust him. We'll talk about this some other timeâ€¦ Give him a break, will you?...Ok, good night."

"So you finally made your move, huh" Ozpin seemingly was talking to no one. Suddenly, a white bird with jet black streaks appeared out of nowhere and started to speak. "You have gather your pieces, I will gather mine."

As sudden as it had appeared, the small creature dissipated.

Ozpin knew that somewhere, a pair of crimson red eyes were watching him, and only him.

12. School Rumbles

"Wake up, Bro, Wake up." Jace was never good at waking up early. He was entrenched in his bed when Jaune came to wake him up. "Come on, we still have classes today"

"Hmâ€¦ Five more minutesâ€¦"

"That is what you said five minutes ago. Come on, we still need to get breakfast."

Jaune was finally able to get his younger brother up from bed.

"Go ahead first Jaune, I'll be right behind you guys." Jace said as he walked into the shower as Jaune went back to his room to get his teammates.

After his shower, Jace decided to walk first to the teachers' lounge to grab a cup of coffee. Much to both Jace and Ozpin's chagrin, Beacon did not serve coffee in the student cafeteria. The headmaster had lobbied for more school funds to go to supplying coffee but Ms. Goodwitch denied it every single time.

"Hi, Mr. Arc, how are you doing this morning?" The headmaster was the one at the coffee machine in the morning, he was talking with a younger green haired fellow. "Let me introduce you to our history teacher, Dr. Oobleck."

"Nice to meet you doc. A fellow team member I see." Jace gestured towards the green haired teacher's coffee mug.

"Well yes, it is absolutely amazing to have a cup of Joe every morning. Just brightens up my day." The doctor spoke so fast that Jace had trouble keeping up. "That being said, I wish to ask why you are here. Normally only staff are allowed in this lounge."

"It is a privilege he earned as a Ranger, Bart. He deserved it" Ozpin did not want to tell his subordinates about the Queen yet.

"Well then, welcome to the teachers' lounge. As a fellow coffee enthusiast, you should be entitled to know that we have every type of blend from Vacuo's famous Hazy Espresso to Atlas' White Snow."

Oobleck spoke even faster as he was excited by another enthusiast.

"Just don't tell Glynda." Ozpin added in. Their stash was supposed to be secret as Oobleck had used funds that were supposed to go to the history department and used it to import Mistrali Fruit blends.

"Thank you for telling me, I will definitely try every one of them. I have to go now. Have a good day." Jace waved good bye and manage to get out of the room before Glynda Goodwitch arrived.

* * *

><p>"Hey Jace! Over here!" Ruby waved at the black haired teen and Jace went to the table mug in hand.<p>

"Were did you get the coffee?" Weiss did not see any coffee machines in the line, only tea. She desperately needed some caffeine after Ruby tripped over a suitcase of blue dust and made everything in their room wet.

"Teacher's lounge."

"How did you get in there? Aren't only teachers allowed in there?" Blake was curious. She was holding a cup of green Oolong tea.

"One of the many perks of being a Ranger." Jace winked at Weiss, who shook in frustration that someone had achieved a higher status than her and gotten special treatment from the Beacon staff. Jace on the other had was beginning to see why Yang like to tease her team so much. It was entertaining.

As the teams finished their breakfast, they began to walk towards their first class, Grimm studies with Professor Port.

* * *

><p>Ok, Jaune and Jace now officially regret coming to Beacon.<p>

Prof. Port was not only boring, but also so self-obsessed glutton that he went off on a 'heroic' story about how he killed an Ursa with a beowolf and didn't even notice that half of his class wasn't paying any attention to him.

Ruby started to draw a portrait of the portly teacher titled _Professor Poop_; Yang started to twirl and check her hair; Blake was reading her book; Jaune and Jace were throwing paper airplanes at each other and Ren was trying to keep Nora from dying by boredom.

Only Weiss and Pyrrha were actually listening to the Professor. And one of them is VERY annoyed by the actions of her partner.

"Who is willing to show that they have what it takes to be a true Huntsman?" Prof. Port finally finished his tale and was asking for a volunteer for demonstration.

Weiss's hand immediately shot up. She was determined to show that she

was better than everyone else, especially a certain teen with curly black hair.

"Ms. Schnee, thank you for volunteering, would you please gear up and come back to the room?"

After Weiss came back, she saw a large cage covered in a black tarp, only two red eyes showed that there was any presence inside the container.

"Please get ready Ms. Schnee." The heiress bent her knees and got into a combat stance suited for her usage of glyphs.

"GO WEISS" Her team leader screamed her. Weiss momentarily lost concentration and was not prepared for the boarbatusk that charged at her at full speed. She was forced to dive to the side and get on to the defensive.

The boarbatusk charge again, this time Weiss was ready and put a glyph right under the Grimm. The small creature was launched up into the air and flipped on to its back. Weiss then easily dispatched it with a stab to the soft underbelly.

"Bravo, you have showed to have the potential to be a true huntress. Unfortunately, this will be it for the first class. Please read pages 1-50 in the assigned book for homework"

"Of course I have potential, I am a Schnee." Weiss said to no one in particular. She took a brief glance at Jace, her current targeted rival. He wasn't even paying attention!

Jace smiled as he just got a text from the headmaster that he was exempt from Glynda's combat class and was to meet with the white haired man in his office. He was just about to reply when his scroll was forcibly snatched out of his hands.

"WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING?" Weiss was beyond mad. This boy had the guts to ignore her 'perfect' performance and focus on a game on his scroll!

"What do you mean?" Jace was confused, did he do anything wrong?

"You were supposed to focus on class. I just showed everyone a fabulous example and here you are playing with your scroll!"

"Well, I was just texting the headmaster, he needed me to go to the office for a _special _assignment." Jace smirked. He knew how to push the heiress's buttons had had a fantastic time doing it. "Jaune, we are needed at Ozpin's office." Jace turned and walked away Weiss.

"UGH, who does he think he is!?" Weiss shouted out indignantly

"Calm down, Weiss, you don't have to be so competitive in everything." Ruby was trying to comfort her partner.

"What do you know about being 'Competitive'!? You had everything handed to you! You shouldn't even be team leader!"

Ruby got teary eyed as the white themed girl walked away from her team.

Unbeknownst to them, the black eyed teen looked back at them as he turned around the corner.

13. A Little Fight Here and There

"So, I guess we are discussing our findings today?" Jace did not miss the distrusting glance from Ms. Goodwitch this morning.

"Yes, none of us expected you to find the Queen this fast." Jaune opened his eyes wide at the headmaster's remark and looked expectantly at Jace

"Neither did I. I was just checking in on one of my contacts in Vale when he told me of that he had troubleâ€¦ that involved the Queen."

"And how exactly did you meet our target?" Ozpin was still not convinced.

"Wellâ€¦" Jace did not want to tell the headmaster and his brother that he was at a bar, nor that he was in contact with gangsters.

"Go on"

"First, I need your promises." Jace needed his contacts and now his chance at infiltrating the Queen's group, but did not want his teachers and family on his ass about underage drinking and being in dangerous situations. Ozpin did not change his facial expression while Jaune glared at his brother. "I will need to continue what I am doing in order to stay in contact with our target."

The headmaster nodded.

"Ok, well, I know a club owner and information broker named Hei Xiong, nicknamed Junior."

"So the Black Bear." Ozpin knew some of the Valean underworld but preferred to stay out of it. Qrow had always been the one to infiltrate the shadier places.

"Yes, and he had a problem on his hands. A couple of teenagers came in and tried to force him to suspend his broker deals. He asked who sent them and they replied the Queen."

Jaune showed natural skepticism. "Are you sure they are not just low level thugs wanting a popularity boost?"

"I thought of that at first, but then Junior pointed to a woman in the club." Jace grimaced, "and if you need confirmation, ask Qrow. The woman has amber eyes and wears a low cut red dress with gold highlights. On her back was a tattoo of two high heels that creates a heart."

Ozpin widened his eyes at this.

"I actually had a drink with her before I met with Junior. She was

smart enough to know that I was from Beacon and we plan to meet again next Sunday."

Jaune shook his head, he knew Jace would do something like this but he couldn't stop his brother. "You know, Mom will declare war on Vale when she hears that you went to a club and drank alcohol with some random stranger."

Jace smiled sheepishly at his brother's remark, "I was wondering if you could not inform her of this little incident. I am trying to save the world here." Jaune sighed, his brother had a point.

"Jaune, I think it is time for you to go to class now. I asked for you too just for you to be informed on the current situation." Ozpin signaled for Jaune to leave.

"Yes sir." Jaune sighed again. How was he supposed to lead an army if he doesn't have all of the information!?

"So, Ozzie how did Ms. Goodwitch react to the news?" Jace had a smirk on his face.

"Just as everyone else, distrust and disbelief." Ozpin sipped his from his mug again. "Although Qrow seems to have faith in you."

"Well, if this is all, then I should go now, I still have classes" Jace turned to leave.

"You have been exempt from combat classes as per your request. And your history class has been moved in place of your combat class. That way, you may spend your afternoons doing what you must. Please— just be safe. We can't afford to lose anyone right now." Ozpin remembered the small bird creature on the roof last night and the message it brought. A certain old friend came into his mind.

"Thanks, Ozzie" Jace walked into the elevator and disappeared behind the doors.

* * *

><p>Jaune was in Ms. Goodwitch's combat class. He had come in late after the meeting with the headmaster. Glynda had excused him but before he even sat down, a bell rang.<p>

"Next match, Jaune Arc against Cardin Winchester!"

Jaune sighed and walked down to the dorms and got geared up. He unsheathed the Crocea Mors to check its condition, which was unnecessary on the account that the sword was built to be indestructible. He then strapped the longsword on to his hip and put on his hoody and armor.

As Jaune walked out, he was greeted with a mace wielding boy who was almost a half of a head taller than him.

"In this match, you will be demonstrating how to effectively use aura. The objective is not to win, but to practice your aura techniques."

"Hmpf, as if Jaune boy can win against me!" Cardin boasted

Jaune smirked, he hated pompous assholes and was glad to put Cardin in his place.

"Heard you didn't even take the entrance exam. I will show everyone that you don't belong here, especially to that hot partner of yours!" Pyrrha and everyone else glared at Cardin

Jaune started to laugh uncontrollably at the lousy attempt of the larger boy to be macho.

"What is so funny?" Cardin scowled

"I just can't believe that Vale is this desperate for Hunters."

"Well, do you think you can beat this?" Cardin flexed his muscles trying to intimidate the smaller boy.

Jaune was laughing so hard that he wasn't even able to stand up. "I am sorry Cardin, I know you hate to admit this, but when the ladies say that size matters, they are talking about you lower half."

Cardin growled while several in the audience giggled at the expense of the larger teen.

"Children, please get ready, we do not have all day." Ms. Goodwitch was getting impatient.

"Fine. You won't be so cheeky when I pummel you face into the wall." Cardin raised his mace. He was surprised that Jaune did not draw his sword in turn. "Well, aren't you going to get ready?"

"I am." Jaune simply raised his fists.

"Well your funeral." Cardin then charged at smaller boy.

Just as Cardin was about to reach Jaune, the smaller and more agile teen duck down and extended his leg while covering it with aura. Cardin tried to stop but his momentum was too great and he ran into Jaune's leg and tripped over.

Jaune just stood back up nonchalantly, waiting for Cardin to get back up. Cardin snarled at the blonde but realized that he was too heavy to charge in straight at the smaller and more agile boy.

Seeing that Cardin wasn't taking the bait anymore, Jaune charged at his opponent but still refused to draw his sword.

Jaune pretended to be running at the boy without aura, but secretly sent some to his legs. Cardin thought that he got Jaune in his range and raised his mace at the last moment. Jaune simply used the aura stored up in his legs to sidestep the swing and pushed another aura infused palm into the torso of the larger teen.

Cardin flew across the training field and slammed into the wall by the bleachers.

"Stop!" Ms. Goodwitch called out. It was enough to see that the prince had both better control of his aura and better skill at hand to hand combat than his larger opponent.

"Not yet" Cardin rose up and tried to charge again at the blonde prince.

"Mr. Winchester! I said stop!" the teacher used her semblance to levitate Cardin into the air. "Now, students, as you can see, Mr. Arc had excellent control of aura and was able to overcome his opponent despite his size disadvantage."

Glynda continued to lecture each of the students individually. "Mr. Arc, you should take every opponent seriously. Some opponents will pretend to be weak only to surprise you when you are the most vulnerable." Jaune nodded.

She then turned to Cardin, "Mr. Winchester, I hope this has been a lesson to you. You were overwhelmed by a smaller combatant not only because you underestimated him, but also you lack control in your techniques."

Cardin only growled back, "He cheated! I don't know how, but look at him! He should not have so much strength!"

"That is enough, you are lucky that I didn't already give you detention for the comment about Ms. Nikos earlier."

That shut Cardin up real quick. Ms. Goodwitch released him and he dropped to the floor of the arena.

"Team CRDL, please take your team leader to the infirmary to make sure he doesn't have any lasting injuries."

"That was awesome! How did you do that!?" Ruby rushed to Jaune with Nora right behind her. "Yeah Fearless Leader! You threw Cardin across the field like it was nothing!"

Jaune scratched the back of his head sheepishly.

"Thank you for that" Pyrrha came up to her team leader.

"No problem. He was a dick anyways." The blonde smiled back at her, making the champion's face flush a little. A certain blonde brawler did not miss this

"Lover Boy! Didn't know you had it in you to kick some ass." Yang was the next one to come up to him. "Mama Yang likes!"

"Thanks." Jaune grinned back, "I learn to burn from the best."

"Oh, I bet you do."

Yang in her 'infinite' wisdom, decided to mess with Pyrrha, "Maybe we can have some fun sometimes, you know, just the two of us." She winked coyly at the other blonde.

"That would be nice." Jaune did not realize the hole that he just dug himself into.

Pyrrha stared menacingly at the brawler, but Yang continued, "We can go into Vale this weekend, I know this awesome club!"

Neither blonde noticed the emerald eyes and the dark aura that glared at them.

14. Pairings

So I am wondering right now if I should have a Flaming Arkos or just Arkos (for those who don't know the terminology, Yang or no Yang). If you prefer one or the other, PM me about it.

PS: Poll is up for this question.

End
file.